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Testimony for SB 1 An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave
Philip Prata, State General Agent in Connecticut and Massachusetts,
American Income Life Insurance Company
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Senator Kushner, Representative Porter and members of the Labor and Public Employees committee, my name is Philip Prata, and I am a State General Agent in Connecticut and Massachusetts for American Income Life Insurance Company. As a small business owner, it is important to me to be able to recruit and retain sales representatives and employees. My industry is a demanding one, which is why American Income Life's sales representatives, Public Relations team and employees are union. We were founded on the idea that working Americans should be paid fairly, as well as provided benefits and an opportunity to grow to their own potential.

I am here today to support SB 1, An Act concerning PAID Family and Medical Leave (paid FMLA). S.B. 1 will create and implement a comprehensive, statewide system of paid family and medical leave for workers who need to take time off to care for themselves or a loved one, or to welcome a new child.

AIL's sales representatives and employees enjoy the benefits of a union contract, but unfortunately in my industry we are the only 100% union company. Paid leave is critical to families today. Twenty years ago when the FMLA was first passed, we eliminated a hurdle to taking care of our families. Historically, too many families have been unable to take advantage of this opportunity because many workers' leave has been unpaid leave.

This bill as written provides families with a pathway to care without having to choose between caring and paying their bills. Yet it also provides safeguards against abuse by either employee or employer.

I urge the committee to support this legislation and I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony here today. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.



Philip Prata